

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FAREPORTAL, INC.,
Plaintiff,
vs.
NISHITH KUMAR,
Defendant.

Case No. 4:21-cv-02841-YGR

**ORDER DISCHARGING ORDER TO SHOW
CAUSE;**

**REQUIRING BRIEFING ON MOTION TO
TRANSFER VENUE;**

GRANTING EXTENSION

The above-captioned matter is now comprised only of plaintiff Fareportal, Inc.’s claim against *pro se* defendant Nishith Kumar for violation of the New Jersey Computer Related Offenses Act (“NJCROA”), N.J.S.A. 2A:38A-3. Finding that plaintiff had not established the bases for this Court’s jurisdiction over such claim, the Court issued, on April 22, 2024, an order to show cause why this matter should not be transferred. (Dkt. No. 168.) The parties timely responded (*see* Dkt. Nos. 169 & 170), and the order to show cause is **DISCHARGED** on that basis.

The Court has carefully reviewed the parties’ responses. Based thereon, the Court determines Kumar’s intent is to have this case heard, if it is not dismissed on forum *non conveniens* grounds, by a court closer to his residence in New Jersey. (*See generally* Dkt. No. 170.) The Court therefore construes Kumar’s response as a motion to transfer venue to the District of New Jersey.¹ *See, e.g., United States v. Qazi*, 975 F.3d 989, 993 (9th Cir. 2020) (requiring district courts to construe *pro se* motions liberally); *see also Thomas v. Ponder*, 611 F.3d 1144, 1150 (9th Cir. 2010). Finding the existing record insufficiently developed on such a motion, the

¹ Plaintiff pleads that venue is proper in this district because the defendants “committed tortious acts in California while they were employed by Travana, a California based company.” Dkt. No. 1, Complaint ¶ 25. The Court notes, however, that plaintiff submitted additional evidence along with his response to the order to show cause casting doubt on whether he in fact removed the at-issue hard drive from Fareportal’s offices and brought it with him to California, thereby potentially undermining plaintiff’s theory, as pled. Even assuming without deciding that the complaint establishes proper venue in this district, however, this does not prevent the Court from considering permissive transfer in its inherent discretion. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a).

1 Court hereby **ORDERS** briefing as follows: (1) should plaintiff oppose the motion, it shall file an
2 opposition by no later than Wednesday, May 29, 2024; and (2) if the motion is opposed, defendant
3 shall file a reply by no later than Wednesday, June 5, 2024. The opposition and reply briefs shall
4 not exceed five (5) pages each.

5 Kumar is advised that Section 1404(a) of Title 28 of the United States Code permits
6 district courts to transfer venue “to any other district or division where [the case] may have been
7 brought” “[f]or the convenience of parties and witnesses” and where doing so would be “in the
8 interest of justice.”² As the moving party, he bears the burden of establishing that transfer of venue
9 is warranted. *Jones v. GNC Franchising, Inc.*, 211 F.3d 495, 499 (9th Cir. 2000). While no
10 individual factor is dispositive of the transfer analysis, the Ninth Circuit has identified the
11 following as factors district courts may consider in connection with a motion to transfer:

12 (1) the location where the relevant agreements were negotiated and executed, (2) the state
13 that is most familiar with the governing law, (3) the plaintiff's choice of forum, (4) the
14 respective parties' contacts with the forum, (5) the contacts relating to the plaintiff's cause
15 of action in the chosen forum, (6) the differences in costs of litigation in the two forums,
16 (7) the availability of compulsory process to compel attendance of unwilling non-party
17 witnesses, and (8) the ease of access to sources of proof.

18 *Id.* at 498–99.

19 Separately, the Court notes that Kumar filed a request for extension of his deadline for
20 rebutting plaintiff's expert report, and the overall expert discovery deadline. Given this Order
21 requires the parties to brief the venue transfer issue, the Court finds good cause for the extensions,
22 which are **GRANTED**.

23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24 Dated: May 23, 2024


YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

25 _____
26 ² See also *Stewart Org., Inc. v. Ricoh Corp.*, 487 U.S. 22, 29 (1988) (characterizing such
27 assessment as an “individualized, case-by-case consideration of convenience and fairness”); *Park*
28 *v. Dole Fresh Vegetables, Inc.*, 964 F.Supp.2d 1088, 1093 (N.D. Cal. 2013) (“No single factor is
dispositive, and a district court has broad discretion to adjudicate motions for transfer”)
(quotations and citations omitted).